



An Lester Trumach - The Packet Ship

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable half term break and that all the children are ready for the lead up to Christmas. Thank you to everyone who replied to our request for assistance with funding a visit to Miracle Theatre's **Aladdin**. The response was large and overwhelmingly popular, with some generous offers to make the event available for everyone. We came very close to covering the full expense but in the event were saved the difficulty following with a more attractive/achievable cost and some advice regarding suitability (Miracle themselves recommend the Aladdin performance for junior children and above) and an opportunity to host a presentation of **The Mousehole Cat** at school on Wednesday 5th December. To cover the cost of this as part of our Christmas celebration for the children we need to ask for a voluntary contribution of £4 per child. It is obviously significantly less than we originally required and it would be great if everyone was able to support this special event (those in receipt of pupil premium funding will be subsidised in full).

With voluntary contributions in mind, please could I ask that if you have not yet sent anything to help out with expenses related to swimming we would greatly appreciate any outstanding payment – the school does provide tutor and pool hire, but cannot meet the full cost of the necessary transport. As advance warning, we do also need to ask for voluntary contributions for Watersports in the summer (the school is charged £12.50 per child for each of the 8 sessions), so if you have a child in y3 or y5 please be prepared for that – and you can make contributions at any time. Again we would value any 'back-payments' as the shortfall can only be covered from classroom budgets.

I don't feel particularly comfortable having to turn to money matters and pleas, but it is quite clear that even with the chancellor's "little extras" the end of austerity is not yet in sight for schools! There is, however some good news and ways to ensure that the school accesses all the Pupil Premium funds that are available for the children...

Sponsored Cycle update

A couple of late sponsor donations and the full raffle earnings have been collected and can be added to the total figure which now stands at an amazing **£6382.88**. Thank you for your continuing support, and don't worry if you've not collected in all your sponsorship; we are certainly happy to extend the deadline for any late contributions so you can hand it in to the office or pay in by BACS. I can also give the final lap-count for the 99 riders and their incredible total.

Given that the Swanpool circuit is only just short of a mile (by about 50 yards) this is the equivalent to the school completing a little bit more than the traditional Lands End to John O' Groats end-to-end. Broken down into relay stages, it's roughly as if each of the packet ships cycled the following legs:

| Sponsored Cycle Laps | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|---|--|
| Fox | 107.5 | 1 | Falmouth - Exeter |
| Freeling | 128 | 2 | Exeter – Worcester |
| Swiftsure | 140 | 3 | Worcester – Leeds |
| Walsingham | 181 | 4 | Leeds – Dunbar |
| Pelham | 204 | 5 | Dunbar to Inverness |
| Chichester | 323 | 7 | Inverness – Saxa Vord (the Northern most tip of Uist, Shetland! |
| Total | 1083.5 | | (Although obviously, this would be quite a task crossing the North Sea). |

As agreed with the children before the vent, these totals have been converted into Packet Ship points to count towards the annual competition!

<http://marlborough.eschools.co.uk>



Pupil Premium

The school receives funding to support children in families receiving any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support from NASS under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit

These are the same criteria used to provide free school meals. Obviously all infants now receive a free daily meal and since the beginning of the *Universal Free School Meals for Infant Children* service we have seen applications reduce from infant families. This means that we may be losing out on some vital funding. If you have this entitlement, please apply – you will continue access to free meals for your child as (s)he moves up into the juniors, but you will also access funds for us to be able to help out with learning support, extra curricular activities and visits, etc. The application is managed in a totally confidential manner and, to make sure that everybody who can receives this information and the application form, I have asked the class teachers to pass it on to all parents throughout this week's consultation evenings. If you are entitled please apply and send the form back to school via the office post box. Of course, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with me personally.

Parent help is not always about money and, following on from the offer for help that came from the Mariners last term I'd like to ask for some specific assistance:

Cooking Club If you know somebody or are yourself able to offer any Food Preparation Skills (eg Sushi making, Pasta or cake decorations etc) and would be happy to share them by demonstrating at or delivering a 'food skill workshop' for one of our Tuesday evening cooking club sessions, please let the office know.

Christmas Play Prop / Costume Making If you would like to assist in any prop making activity (individually or in a team, at home or in at school) again please provide the office with any name(s) and dates you would be available.

Thank you.

| Packet Points | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----|---|-----------------|------------|----|
| This week | | | | Total | | |
| 1 st | Chichester | 28 | 7 | 1 st | Chichester | 25 |
| 2 nd | Swiftsure | 27 | 5 | 2 nd | Freeling | 24 |
| 3 rd | Freeling | 22 | 4 | | Swiftsure | 24 |
| 4 th | Walsingham | 22 | 4 | 4 th | Pelham | 23 |
| 5 th | Pelham | 19 | 2 | 5 th | Walsingham | 22 |
| 6 th | Fox | 15 | 1 | 6 th | Fox | 17 |



Messy Church is thinking about listening, and there will be a free Advent Calendar for each child.

MESSY CHURCH is an all-age **family** gathering with craft, games, songs, story and food, not like conventional church; that is partly why it's called "Messy". There is plenty of space for the energetic to run around, and we do not expect anyone to sit quietly when they are not in the mood.

The next gathering will be on **SATURDAY 10th November between 9.30 and 11.00 at All Saints Church, Killigrew Street, Falmouth**. We will start at 9.30 with **breakfast** and then there will be games and activities, followed by a story and songs. Everyone is welcome and **we would be delighted to see you**. All children must be accompanied by an adult please.

Messy Church is free, but donations are very welcome.

For more information see www.messychurch.org.uk or find us on [Facebook.com/Falmouth Messy Church](https://www.facebook.com/FalmouthMessyChurch)